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Collaborative Activities and Relationships in the Willamette River Basin, Oregon

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Concepts for Collaborative Watershed Planning

- Basin Coordinators
- Planner Forward
- Corps “Statesperson”

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Portland District Key Watersheds

- Middle Columbia River
- Lower Columbia River & Estuary
- Coastal
- Rogue River
- Willamette River

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The "Basin Coordinator" Concept

- Consistent with Corps organization along river basins/watersheds
- Support for recent initiatives for working within watersheds and developed the concept of a "Basin Coordinator"
- Designate a "Basin Coordinator" in each Watershed

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Basin Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities

- Project Manager, Program Manager, or Senior Staff
- Corps Representative
  - District “eyes and ears”
  - First contact with local agencies
  - Focal point of information
    - Other PMs/PgMs keep them informed
    - Coordinate with Project OMs
  - Basin POC for Outreach activities

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Basin Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities

- Build strong relationships
- Identify local water resource problems
- Request aid from Outreach PDT
- Keep Outreach PDT informed
  - 1 or 2 times a year attend PDT meeting
  - Update list of local Relationships

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The "Planner Forward" Concept

- Corps Planning at the local level
- Brought a person from an Operating Project to the District for a Developmental Detail
- Idea was to have a planner "embedded" in local actions and activities.
  - Eyes and Ears of Planning PMs
  - Decreases travel requirements
  - Works on day to day basis with Local "In-Kind" PDT

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Corps "Statesperson" Concept

- Selected Corps personnel will be "Statespersons"
- Represent the Corps on all aspects – Work & Home

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Corps "Statesperson" Concept

- Extensive Leadership Development Training – LDP & Hatfield School of Government
- Worked with local University to develop a Class
  - Corps History
  - Corps Missions
  - Corps Critics
  - Corps Supporters

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"Herding Cats in the Willamette River Basin"

Water Supply

American Heritage Rivers

Sustainable Rivers

CWA & TMDLs

ESA Section 7

GI Program

Fed. Recreation Lakes Demo. Prog.

Governor's "Blueprint"

NW Forest Plan

CAP Program

IWR Research

Project O&M

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Existing Corps Infrastructure

13 Reservoirs

- 11 Multiple-purpose
- 2 Re-regulating

Navigation Channel

- Portland Harbor to Corvallis
- 132 River Miles

Willamette Falls Locks

Willamette Bank Protection Program

- 100 miles of revetments
- Mainstem and tributaries

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Water Resource Problems & Opportunities in the Willamette Basin

- Aging Infrastructure
- Endangered Aquatic and Wildlife Species
- Water Quality Concerns
- M&I and Agricultural Water Supply
- Recreation Demand and Access
- Flood Damage Reduction & Erosion

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Ongoing Collaborative Efforts

- **Corps is the Lead**
  - Project Operations
  - Planning Program (GI & CAP)
- **Others Lead, Corps Participates**
  - Regulatory Drivers (ESA & CWA)
  - Other Federal Initiatives
  - State & Local Initiatives

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Regulatory Drivers

- **Endangered Species Act**
  - Section 7 Consultation
  - Recovery Planning
- **Clean Water Act**
  - Total Maximum Daily Loads
  - Use Attainability Analysis

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Willamette Reservoir Project Operations

- Interagency Flow Management Workgroup
  - Diverse Stakeholder Base
    - ✓ 5 Federal Agencies
    - ✓ 12 State Agencies
    - ✓ 10 Municipalities
    - ✓ Multiple Watershed Councils
    - ✓ Many Civic & Stakeholder Organizations

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General Investigations Program

- **Ongoing Feasibility Studies**
  - Lower Willamette Ecosystem Restoration
  - Eugene Springfield Metropolitan Waterways
  - Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study
  - Willamette Basin Review (Reservoir) Study

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Continuing Authorities Program

- **Section 1135**
  - 2 ongoing
- **Section 206**
  - 4 ongoing
  - 9 pending
- **Section 14**
  - 1 ongoing

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Other Corps Initiatives

- **Willamette Temperature Control Project**
  - Cougar Dam Selective Withdrawal Tower
  - Post-Authorization Change Report
- **Restoration of Abandoned Mines (RAMS)**
  - Black Butte Mine, coast Fork Willamette River

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Willamette Basin, Oregon
The Nature Conservancy / Corps
Sustainable Rivers Project

- One of 12 SRP projects in the country
- Integrated as an element of the Willamette Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study
- Cooperative Agreements
  - ✓ National MOU (existing)
  - ✓ Oregon MOU -- OR chapter TNC/NWP/NWW (draft)

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Other Federal Initiatives

- American Heritage Rivers Program
  - River Navigator & Local Partners
- National Federal Recreation Lakes Demonstration Program, Detroit Lake
  - Local Steering Committee
- Pacific Northwest Forest Plan
  - BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, EPA, NRCS
  - Regional Interagency Executive Committee

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Other Federal Initiatives

- **EPA Pacific NW Ecosystem Restoration Consortium**
  - EPA PNW Research Lab and Universities
- **EPA Targeted Watershed Grants Program**
  - Development of a Marketplace for Trading Environmental Investments
- **Bonneville Power Administration**
  - NW Power & Conservation Council Subbasin Planning
  - Fish & Wildlife Program; $144M annually

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State & Local Initiatives

- **Governor's Willamette River Legacy**
  - "Blueprint" for Recovery
    - 21 priority actions
    - 14 directly or indirectly related to Corps missions, authorities & actions
- **Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds**
- **Watershed Councils**
  - 17 WCs in the Willamette Basin
  - Prioritization Planning
  - Watershed Work Plan
- **ESA Recovery Planning**

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Common Misconceptions

- *"The Willamette Basin is one of the most studied places in the country"*
  - *Nobody has tackled the difficult political issues associated with tradeoffs*
  - *All the analysis to date is "a mile wide and an inch deep"*
- *"We know what needs to be done; just get on with it"*
  - *Effort to date have focused on problem identification; not on implementation action*
  - *We deal with the easy tactical objectives but neglect the difficult strategic planning*